

Reforming Federal Procurement of Information Technology (RFP-IT) Act
Summary (Eshoo-Connolly-Hanna-Swalwell-DelBene)
July 30, 2014

The *Reforming Federal Procurement of Information Technology (RFP-IT) Act* will save taxpayer dollars and eliminate wasteful spending by reforming Federal IT procurement to enhance competition, promote innovation, and strengthen accountability.

Enhance Competition

- The RFP-IT Act raises the simplified acquisition threshold (SAT) to \$500,000 for information technology services provided by small technology firms, including small business IT purchases that are not covered under FAR subpart 13.5, such as custom computer programming and design services.
- Elevating the SAT would lower barriers to entry for innovative small businesses, many of which often avoid entering the Federal market due to real or perceived, built-in systematic advantages accorded to large, incumbent Federal IT vendors.
- This reform would also incentivize agencies to adopt cost-effective acquisition strategies that not only benefit from shortened lead times and lower administrative burdens, but also provide agencies with access to a more diverse and broad pool of bidders, ensuring taxpayer dollars are efficiently used to purchase the most advanced technological solutions available.
- RFP-IT also permanently authorizes the streamlined acquisition authority provided under FAR Subpart 13.5, which establishes the SAT at \$6.5 million for commercial item purchases.
- Expanding the use of simplified acquisition procedures will shorten procurement lead times and help level the playing field for start-ups and small businesses – a critical factor in an IT marketplace that is characterized by the constant influx of new entrants and rapidly evolving IT products and services.

Promote Innovation

- Codifies the Presidential Innovation Fellows (PIF) program, a highly competitive program that pairs talented individuals from the technology community with civil servants to address key technology projects aimed at improving citizen services and saving taxpayer dollars.
- Requires that the U.S. General Services Administration provide Congress with recommendations on how to streamline IT Schedule 70 to ensure the Federal Government has direct access to our country's most innovative technology firms, many of which are small businesses that operate solely in the commercial marketplace.

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- Establish a Federal Government Priority Goal that requires all Federal agencies improve the quality of solicitations that are issued for IT procurements.
- Ensure the FAR Council develops rules that address the unique challenges facing small businesses and IT acquisition by increasing the Council's Membership to include the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Strengthen Accountability

- Establishes the United States Digital Government Office (U.S. DGO) in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to coordinate Federal IT policy.
- The U.S. DGO will replace the Office of Electronic Government and be headed by a strengthened U.S. Chief Information Officer who is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the United States Senate.
- The U.S. DGO will house a Digital Service that will be required to conduct a pilot program where it partners with Federal agencies to address high priority Federal IT projects.
- Improves transparency and boosts congressional oversight by requiring the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) conduct independent reviews of the effectiveness of emerging Federal IT initiatives, including the PIF program, the IT 70 Schedule, GSA's 18F program, and challenges facing small businesses.